



Bassett fecit **THO.^s JOHNSON.**
the first Pugilist in the World.

Jan. Hay
1791

BOXING REVIEWED;
OR, THE
Science of Manual Defence,
DISPLAYED ON
RATIONAL PRINCIPLES.
COMPREHENDING
A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION
OF THE
PRINCIPAL PUGILISTS,
From the earliest Period of BROUGHTON's Time,
to the present Day.

By THOMAS FEWTRELL.

L O N D O N :
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fence, is the professed object of my book; and where could I find a patron equal to your Lordship, whether I consider your knowledge of the theory, or your skill in the practice.

Your Lordship's condescension in suffering your name to grace my literary efforts, has my warmest thanks; and the sincerest gratitude for so great a favour shall always animate my bosom.

I am, My LORD,

With the most profound Respect,

Your Lordship's most humble,

And most devoted Servant,

THO^s. FEWTRELL.

ADVERTISEMENT.

MANY are desirous to learn my motives for publishing the following pages. I can truly declare, that the vanity of being esteemed an author was not of the number, for that I knew would be more prejudicial than useful to one in my line of life, since mankind esteem a pugilist in proportion to his ignorance, and think that the more savage and unenlightened he is, the better qualified he must be to excel in his profession. It is perhaps thought, that profit is my object, and that my labour is to be rewarded with money. I sincerely wish such thoughts may be *realized*; but unluckily, my expectations of that nature are trifling.

Authorship rarely brings emolument with it, and I know several men of genius who study so much, and eat so little, that they may be literally said to live in a state of *refinement*, both in mind and body; a state which, I fear, would soon take place even with me, whose talents can have no claim to it, were I to throw aside the *Sparring Gloves*, and continue to hold the *pen*; for I find I have already had so much to do with my *head*, that I have less than ever to do with my *pocket*. I therefore advise those who are not authors to suppress any vain idea of becoming so; those who are, will I am confident, when able, shake off a name so expressive of their misery.

This Volume was written for the purpose of vindicating Pugilism from the unjustifiable censures of illiterate and weak minds, and proving its utility on rational principles. If I have in *any* degree succeeded,

ceeded, I shall smile at the opinion of *some*, who, in the zeal of their fine-spun delicacy, may declare my subject and language more calculated for *Hottentots* than *Englishmen*. Upon *such* men argument will have no effect, to *such* I do not address myself. Let the manly, the unprejudiced be my judges—I do not fear a favorable decision.

If a book on Boxing be absurd, so must one on *Fencing*, so must one on *Dancing*; and yet several useful and entertaining treatises have been printed on these subjects.

Some one will perhaps object, that this is written by a *Boxer*; but upon this principle the same sagacious critic might condemn the author of any publication for undertaking that to which he is adequate by *experience*, and would, by the inverted laws of reason, expect a collection of sermons from a general, or a treatise on tactics from a bishop.

a bishop. Without fear or interest I have in the following work published my opinion respecting Pugilism. I have acted from conviction, and I am satisfied—

Fiat justitia, ruat cælum.

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BOXING REVIEWED.

SECTION I.

Pugilism condemned without reason—the fair sex should not oppose it—a state of hostility impossible to be avoided—Boxing the most natural and least dangerous way of deciding disputes, therefore preferable to all others.

IT must appear strange, that any particular exercise should be condemned without an impartial discussion of its merits; such, however, I venture to assert, has been the case with Boxing. Prejudice has been chiefly instrumental in its condemnation. Petits maitres, whose frames are not formed for their own defence, or the annoyance of others combine against its success, and the pusillanimous,

nimous, with bodies that give every indication of manhood, but whose hearts sicken at the approach of a blow, unite against its popularity.

The science has also its enemies, and perhaps of a more formidable nature, in the fair sex; for what has love to do with war? —“*To play with mamrets, and to tilt with lips,*” is their motto. Yet I do not despair of finding advocates among the ladies. Minerva presided over war, and, if we credit the poets, kept even Mars in awe. But I do not bring a solitary instance in my favour, I will call a whole nation to my aid; the Amazons, renowned for warlike achievements, were women. Less ancient times have produced a maiden, whose arm has thinned the ranks of the bravest Englishmen, for who can doubt the truth of a history, so well authenticated as that of Joan D’Arc, the Maid of Orleans? Have
we

we not seen in our own time a Madame D'Eon invested with military command? And is there not at this moment a lady, who has rid her own matches at Newmarket, and drives a tennis-ball with a dexterity and vigor that would do honor to the most skilful and brawny arm in the kingdom? Since, therefore, prowess and female nature are not incompatible, it is expected, that if the ladies do not become the friends of Boxing, they will not declare themselves its enemies, a neutrality is only desired, and this should be deemed a *modest* expectation, since "*None but the brave deserve the fair.*"

Let us candidly examine upon what grounds Boxing should be encouraged, and impartially state the objections, which are daily advanced against it.—No man can say, that any practice of hostility should be encouraged, for peace is preferable to war.

Nature delights in friendly intercourse, and warfare must impair the blessings of society. Upon this principle every kind of attack and defence should be abolished; but such is the frailty of mankind, that it is absurd to look for perfection in any state; individuals, from innumerable motives, will quarrel as well as nations, and where the law either cannot give redress, or is by mutual consent laid aside, the decision is made by the strength and skill of the disputants. The inquiry of course takes place, which is the most natural and the least dangerous way of terminating contentions in this manner. Since we can not at all times avoid a state of hostility, our great object is to make it as little injurious to society as possible. Morality tells us, that since an evil must absolutely happen, it is better, a greater should give way to a less. And upon this principle Boxing is preferable to every other kind of fighting, for it is more natural,
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and productive of less mischief. It would be useless to enter into a laboured proof, that it is more natural, for the form of man sufficiently demonstrates it.

One of our most celebrated discoverers, but a short time since, found it established in an island, that had never been visited by Europeans, and so very expert were the natives, in parrying and returning blows, that the best pugilist in the vessel was unable to contend with them. What was the *Cestus*, so much celebrated in the Greek and Roman historians and poets, but a species of *Boxing*? Pollux is reported to have been its founder, and was one of the heroes of antiquity. But this was infinitely more perilous than pugilism. The hands cased in iron must have mangled the bodies of the combatants, and each blow must have produced the most desperate consequences; yet it was encouraged by the wisest nations, and

and the victor, nay the vanquished too, was rewarded with honors and riches. Have not tilts and tournaments, at a period not very remote from our days, been the fashion in England, as well as throughout all Europe? Yet the perils attending the exercise of them were, beyond comparison, greater than any now incurred in Boxing.

The sword and pistol have their professors and patrons; but the mischiefs resulting from the use of them are never mentioned, while, on the contrary, if a melancholy accident takes place in pugilism, it is magnified into a tremendous evil, which requires the interference of the legislature. Every exertion, whether hostile or harmless in its pursuit, subjects us to danger; it would be absurd to use the accidents that have already happened and may hereafter happen in pugilism, as an argument against the practice of it, since all manner of activity should
upon

upon the same principle be discontinued, and indolence would be then esteemed a corporal virtue.

The friends of Boxing are not so ridiculous as to declare, that the science is free from peril, they only contend, that it is more so than any other mode of terminating contests. No man, however martial in his disposition, can be an advocate for fighting, but since dissensions, from the frailty of mankind, cannot be avoided, and that the law can not in all disputes be appealed to, it must be admitted, that pugilism, by the rules of morality and nature, is preferable to all other modes of violent decision..

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SECTION II.

The science should not be censured on account of the private conduct of some of its professors—pitched battles generally condemned—Pugilism of public utility.

I Cannot pronounce a very high panegyric on the politeness and accomplishments of the present pugilists. Like the members of all professions and societies, they differ from each other in principle and behaviour; some are remarkable for their affability, some for their integrity, while others renounce all pretensions to both. But it is unjust, that a science should be condemned, because the professors of it, by the impropriety of their private manners, subject themselves to reproof. We might with equal right censure our holy religion, because some few of its ministers may not be blessed with that regularity of conduct, which

which should distinguish an orthodox divine. I trust therefore, that boxing will be considered in an abstracted state from the misconduct of its teachers, and their errors will be no longer made an objection to its institution. Yet this much I venture to assert, and I speak from my knowledge of facts, that there are among them men, whose heads and hearts would qualify them for any situation in life; nor are they devoid of the milder qualities of humanity. I have seen the courage of the lion and the meekness of the lamb united in the same person, and a man able to chastise the insolence of a giant has, in my presence, calmly submitted to the petulance of a pigmy.

PITCHED BATTLES form a great objection to Pugilism, and, it must be allowed, a just one. Though I am an advocate for Boxing, I am not the champion of its abuses, nor will I suffer my pen, like modern

dern counsellors, to be bribed in the defence of a corrupt cause. Whether we consider pitched battles in a public or a private view, they are equally reprehensible; and first in a public view: No man is the master of his own life, it is the property of the common-wealth, and should not be hazarded by the whim of an individual. Every kind of personal contest exposes us to danger, and though Boxing is attended with less peril than Duelling, yet lives may be lost in the combat: This, it must be confessed, is rarely the case; yet, the bare possibility of so melancholy an event is alone sufficient to destroy the practice of pitched battles. The consideration of them in a private view is equally strong. Two men free from enmity are matched in fight, without any cause for passion, without any motive for vengeance, nay immediately after having mutually given the most known marks of good will, they assault each other
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with all the appearance of deadly hatred, and determined revenge. The ties of humanity are broken, and Nature revolts at the sight.

The inhabitants of every country have their peculiarities, and these peculiarities are often of public utility. Boxing thus considered is of great service, it inspires even in infancy a martial spirit, which improves in our boyish days, and is matured in manhood. Man is taught to look his equals, nay his superiors, boldly in the face. Though he is not inclined to attack others, he knows he is able to defend himself, a reflection, which must be ever pleasing to an independent mind. No size, no weight of body will make any courageous person, skilled in pugilism, submit to base indignities. From a conviction, that the science is universally understood, the strong are taught humility, and the weak confidence.

dence. Many have laughed at the idea, that Boxing is of national service, but they have laughed at the expence of truth. An exercise that diffuses courage throughout any nation, but more particularly England, a country from its politics and commerce so liable to war, must be of public utility. It is principally on this account that the legislature, always attentive to the interest of the people, has never interfered on the subject of pugilism. It was thought more prudent to let that pass unnoticed, which, though occasionally productive of some private mischief, must ever promote the common good.

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SECTION III.

The principles should be first acquired, and the minutiae will follow of course—Sparring necessary to form a Boxer—Sparring should be exercised on the same rules with fighting.

TO advance rules in a magisterial manner, and lay them down as infallible, would be truly absurd. Since the principles of almost every science have been found liable to change, it were presumptuous to pronounce ours free from the same imperfections. It therefore becomes the duty of a professor modestly to state the most known rules, and to recommend those which he conceives the best; not with insolent authority, as if there never should be the least deviation from them, but as the most likely to succeed. It is ridiculous to notice every little punctilio that occurs in pugilism, for no benefit can be derived from the enumeration

ration of trifles, they follow of course as appendages to more consequential matters, and the time of the pupil would be wasted on minutiae, that *naturally* present themselves, when it should be employed in the attainment of the first principles.

Sparring is at this moment absolutely necessary to form a complete pugilist. It is, I grant, a mock encounter, but at the same time a representation, and in most cases, an exact one of real fighting. It is the only proper introduction to Boxing, and a just mode of realizing whatever principles the scholar may have imbibed, or trying the success of any new plan, he may have invented. By this method he can also judge of the propriety of his Master's lessons, and exercise his reasoning faculties, an advantage of which he is often deprived in battle. Some are of opinion, that Sparring is of no great use, and that it takes from the natural powers

powers of manhood, while it only teaches *finesses*, that cannot prove hurtful to a courageous adversary. This however is merely reviving an opinion maintained by the pupils of the Old School, in which strength generally prevailed over skill. Is it not evident, that preparation is necessary for every exercise; but more particularly for that, in which hostilities take place? And what is Sparring, but a preparation, and of the nearest affinity to Boxing? The advocates for this opinion might with equal propriety assert, that shooting at a mark was of no service, in forming an expert gunner.

I wish it to be universally understood, that I recommend the practice of Sparring, as if in *real* action. No manœuvres, no attitudes ought to be adopted, unless experimentally, but what would be introduced in actual fight. Let any one suppose a
Sparring-

Sparring-room the scene of battle, and exert himself upon that principle, he will easily habituate himself to the exercise of all his powers, and act by the same rules in the hour of danger. There may be a great difference between Sparring and Fighting; for one may be very courageous in play, whose heart would be intimidated in real action. But this want of valor is by no means an argument against the doctrine, that is laid down here, since cowardice is not produced by Sparring; for he must have been in the same degree dastardly, if he had never seen it, and perhaps more so. What is mentioned here only goes to prove, that where two persons possess equal courage, strength and activity, the man who makes Sparring his practice, must be superior to him who does not; as one, who considers a thing before its performance, must, unless chance interferes, have an advantage over him, who thinks consideration unnecessary.

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SECTION IV.

The requisites to form a complete Boxer.

IN mentioning the requisites that form a complete Boxer, it is not insinuated, that no person can be a good pugilist without them *all*; one man may possess more requisites than many others, and will be therefore superior; but he who unites all that is necessary in himself will be victorious, until his equal appears, and then a single requisite possessed on either side in a more eminent degree will give the advantage.

—*Strength, art, courage, activity, the power of bearing blows, a quick eye and wind,* are the constituents of a complete Boxer.

I have given the first place in the list to strength, not because it is superior to art, but because it is impossible to display art in a proper manner without strength. It

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has been long a question, and is even now undecided, which merits the preference. From my own experience and the many careful enquiries I have made of the most intelligent professors, and the best seconds, art has evidently the superiority. What battles have been fought, particularly since the present system of Boxing has taken place, in which art has not been victorious? Instances may rarely occur in the course of a multitude of contests to confute me, but what opinion has ever been completely just? And while a great majority of cases appear in my favour, for the truth of which I appeal to the various battles that have been lately decided, I will maintain, that art is intitled to a preference over strength.

Courage is as necessary in a Boxer, as a soldier, and perhaps more so, for the former is always matched, and has every thing to dread from his opponent, while the latter
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has companions to share his danger and encourage him in it, and if he ever engages in a single combat, fortune only gives him an adversary; thus, if he has much to *fear*, he has also much to *hope*. It is extraordinary, that courage should be various in the same person, yet such is often the case. We have instances of men suffering themselves to be cruelly beaten without giving in, who but a short time before shrunk from the ordinary trials of manhood.

Activity is in our time a greater requisite than it formerly was; for Shifting, which consists in the changing of ground, is more practised. Some have censured Shifting as an unmanly custom, but without reason. If indeed mere brutal force were to decide a combat, it might be deemed improper; but where the mind has a considerable share in the decision, as is the case at present, Shifting cannot be thought unmanly. The

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same censure might be passed on Fencing, or an accidental rencontre in a field of battle; but, would it not be absurd to say to a man, whose only care is the preservation of his life—" *You must not avoid your enemy's sword, by changing your ground, you must not make use of that activity of which you are capable, because it is unmanly.*"

The *power of bearing blows*, or what is generally called *Bottom*, *quickness of eye*, and *wind*, are requisites of great importance, and may be all improved by constant practice. There are men who seem to be peculiarly formed for bottom. The severest blows make little impression on the ribs of some, and the heads of others. The *old school* furnishes a surprizing instance of bottom. The noted *Buckhorse* made a practise of standing without a guard, and permitted himself to be knocked down by the hardest hitter, for a trifling sum of money.

ney. The advantage of a *good eye* is evident; it is necessary to discern the approach of a stroke, and perceive the vulnerable parts of an opponent. A resolute look is useful in awing the enemy, and often disconcerts the boldest. The eye should never be closed in the time of action. Wind though naturally good, may be improved by proper exercise, or what is termed *training*. It may also, if once impaired, be in a great measure recovered by the same method, and regularity of living.

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SECTION V.

A proper knowledge of Striking should be the first attainment—of the different kinds of Blows—the Chopper impartially considered—the most dangerous parts of the body.

A Proper mode of striking should be the pupil's first object of knowledge, for a decisive blow may be made by a person unacquainted with the other parts of pugilism; and though a man be well versed in the guards, he hazards much in parrying his adversary, if he himself is ignorant of the principles of striking, because he knows not the common directions of the arms against which he is to defend himself. Thus, whether we consider striking in an offensive or defensive view, either to assault an adversary or receive his attack, it is the most elementary part of Boxing, and should be the first studied.

The

The large knuckles of the hand should be only used, they are rarely disabled, but the knuckles in the middle of the fingers frequently give way.

Straight blows are preferable to all others, they are stronger, because they come directly from the centre of the power, and quicker, because they describe less space in the attainment of the object, it therefore follows, that it is more difficult to parry them than any others. *Round* striking is now universally exploded; it is condemned by the same reasons which recommend straight blows, for it is directly contrary to them.

It has been of late the custom to extol *Chopping*, as the best mode of hitting, it is a blow struck on the face with the back of the hand. Mendoza claims the honour of its invention, but unjustly; he certainly revived and considerably improved it.

it. It was practised long before our time; Broughton occasionally used it, and I am at this instant acquainted with some of Slack's pupils, who have assured me, that he struck the chopper in giving the return in many of his battles. The advocates for chopping are now, particularly among fighters, very few. Mendoza's scholars only adhere to it. Experience proves, that it can be of no great service, since of all the pitched battles, which have been lately fought, it has not contributed to gain one. In the contest between Tyne and Crabb, chopping suffered a shameful disgrace; Crabb was thought, next to Mendoza, the most successful in the use of it, yet he never hit Tyne. Indeed reason convinces us, that it can be of no great utility, it partakes of the nature of a round blow, for it is given downwards or sideways, and must therefore deviate from the centre. It also exposes the arm to danger; every chopper
should

should take its force from the play of the arm, between the elbow and wrist; but if in the eagerness of action, the elbow should be thrown too forward, the small of the arm may be broken. Though no friend to chopping, I do not wish it should be entirely laid aside. It may be happily used in giving the *return*, and should a pugilist engage with a person ignorant of the science, it will certainly prove successful. But when two skilful Boxers meet, no reliance is to be placed on it, and such is the opinion of the most experienced professors of the present day.

A knowledge of the parts of the body most dangerous to be struck is necessary to every Boxer; but first it should be observed, that any blow planted on the waistband or below it, is unfair, and causes the loss of a battle. The eyes, the part between the eyes, the temples, the nose, under the left ear,

ear, immediately below the short ribs, and the pit of the stomach, or what is universally termed the *Mark*, are the parts liable to be most affected. It is not incumbent on me to assume the office of a surgeon, and describe the consequences of blows properly planted in them; it is sufficient to say, that a skilful boxer will succeed in proportion as he judiciously makes them his aim. I think it necessary to contradict the opinion, that round blows will hit some parts which straight blows cannot, whereas those in a straight direction will reach any part, for it is evident, that every blow depends on the position of the striker, and he by altering his position will always attain his mark.

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SECTION VI.

The Guards of Humphreys, Mendoza, and Johnson described—a position once adopted should be adhered to.

WHATEVER rules are laid down in Sparring should be followed in Boxing. They are both considered by me in the same view, and what is mentioned concerning the one is applicable to the other. Every student should endeavour to unite grace with power, and this may be easily accomplished, since Nature delights in the graceful. Attitudes are as various as men, but may be generally reduced to *three*. Those of *Humphreys, Mendoza, and Johnson*. The first consists in placing the left hand foremost, the fist opposite to the mouth; the right hand nearer to the body, the fist covering the stomach; the legs considerably extended;

extended, the left foremost, the weight of the body poised on the right, and the head erect. This position is the most graceful I have ever seen, the head, the breast, the arms, and the legs, are truly picturesque, and combine to improve each other. It is also the most manly; the breast expanded, the head boldly raised, and the limbs firmly planted, expresses the most martial air. The weight of the body thrown on the hinder leg must give greater strength to the blow of a person in this guard than in any other. Some pretend that it is not good for defence; but this opinion proceeds from Mendoza's success in striking Humphreys so repeatedly; whereas the fault lay in the man, not in the guard, for Mendoza is a quicker hitter, and his blows would have perhaps equally told, had Humphreys been in the safest of all positions.

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The second is formed of the fists placed nearer each other, almost opposite to the chin, the left a little before the right; the legs not far removed, the left somewhat before, and the weight of the body on the foremost leg. Here the blow must be weaker, because there is a loss of weight to propel it, the body being mostly poised on the foremost leg. It is, however, better calculated for Shifting, gives the practitioner an opportunity of putting in more blows, but has very little of the graceful or manly in it.

The third or Johnson's attitude consists of the fists held before the head, the arms nearly extended, the legs almost square, the body much bent with the breast forward. This has little elegance or manhood in its appearance, and is practised by very few. The body is protected by this more than any other guard; but the head is exposed.

Men

Men possessed of uncommon strength in the loins should only accustom themselves to it, as it must fatigue all others. The great advantage of this position lies in its being alike calculated for offence or defence, for the weight of the body being equally sustained by both legs, it is by little exertion moved in any direction, so as to guard against or give vigor to a blow.

To point out any attitude as the best in *all* cases, would be ridiculous, a physician might as well prescribe *one* medicine for *all* constitutions. Every one should adopt his mode of defence to his own powers, of which, after some practice, he must be the best judge. This only I recommend: when a person after mature deliberation, and some experience, has adopted a particular guard, he should not easily relinquish it. His only plan should be its improvement, for if he continually seeks for new positions,
he

he cannot act by rule, and must often leave the decision of a combat to fortune. The triumph of *Humphreys* over *Martin*, at Newmarket, is a strong proof of the propriety of this advice. Though the latter changed his manner of fighting as often as *Proteus* did shapes, yet he was as often vanquished. A systematic conduct will prevail over irregularity, which chance only can render victorious.

SECTION VII.

The arms should not be crossed, nor drawn back to strike—the motion of the arms—Closing—doubts about Barring.

SEVERAL of the common people still retain a very dangerous custom, which it is necessary to notice, lest it should be adopted by others who might think it proper merely from seeing it often used. The arms are crossed to form the guard. Two disadvantages result to any person who practises this. In the first instance, one of his adversary's hands placed upon the upper arm will force them both down, and expose the superior part of the body. Secondly, a blow given by one in this position cannot be in a direct line, and must therefore lose much of its force.

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Though we cannot be always guarded, particularly in attacking an enemy, yet we should, as much as possible, preserve our guard. Upon this principle, the arm should never be drawn back to strike, for the guard is lost in proportion to the retrograde motion. An adversary also gets notice of his danger, and is of course prepared to receive the assault. A blow should be struck without any previous alteration of attitude, for even should it fail, the attempt is productive of little mischief, and leaves no opening, if the guard be immediately recovered; but this cannot be done when the whole weight and strength of the body are thrown in with the blow, a measure which never ought to take place, unless it is absolutely certain that an opponent cannot defend it.

A skilful Boxer will never hazard a blow without the prospect of putting in a second to more advantage, and I have seen some
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who went so far as to expose themselves to a blow, that they might more effectually plant one themselves. This, however, may be fatal, and is seldom practised.

Feints, though extremely useful and the effects of science, are not so much attended to as they merit. If in Fencing they prove so decisive, why should they not be adopted with equal success in pugilism?

I cannot implicitly subscribe to the doctrine, which is generally laid down, that a *Boxer should always keep his arms in motion to and fro*. The reason given in its defence, that the action of the fists prevents the approach of a blow, from being perceived, is perhaps not strictly just; for is not the violent *increase* of motion as easily discerned as its *beginning*? If this be true, it will follow, that it is better to keep the arms *steady*, because motion will cause an antagonist to be
more

more carefully on his guard, since he must every moment expect an assault; whereas their firmness may betray him into fancied security. Another reason has been adduced by the supporters of this doctrine—the motion of the arms, say they, will prevent the wrists or hands from being seized; but can any one at this period of pugilistic refinement suppose, that a scientific Boxer would suffer himself to be grasped in such a manner, since previous to its taking place, his adversary by the attempt must throw himself off his guard, and leave a dangerous open.

Closing has been for some time exploded, and this alone may serve as an argument to shew, that Boxing is greatly improved, since what was formerly of much utility, is now esteemed unnecessary or of little value. Yet pugilists should familiarise themselves to *Closing*, for though it rarely happens, they ought to be prepared for the worst.

If I differ in opinion with some of the first Boxers of the present day, whose science is founded on experience, the best of instructors, I do it with respectful diffidence, not presumptuous confidence. I therefore hope, they will excuse me for thus publicly stating my doubts, concerning the practice of *Barring*, which consists in stopping a blow by placing the arm or hand on the part aimed at. Why could not a blow be beat down, a mode of defence which BROUGHTON used with success? Though *Barring* may guard the part intended to be struck, it will not defend the part above or below; beside, the arm or fist in the act of stopping must receive the blow, and may they not be disabled, and consequently a battle lost? It is by no means my firm opinion, that *Barring* should be laid aside, I only declare to men, better skilled than myself, my doubts as to the propriety of its practice.

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SECTION VIII.

*Some principal objections answered—Boxing
useful to Travellers.*

WERE I to leave unanswered some objections that have been urged against Pugilism, I might be justly thought its champion from interest; not from an honest conviction of its propriety. For it would appear, that I declined to take notice of reasons too cogent to be set aside, and yet persisted in the support of a science, which being objectionable should not be defended.

It is asserted, that Boxing renders the common people ferocious, and extinguishes in them the spirit of industry.

The minds of the lowest classes of mankind in this nation have ever been of an independent nature; they are manly, not furious;

rious; resolute, not savage; and I cannot admit, that ferocity is in any respect applicable to them. Indeed at particular periods, zealous in the cause of liberty or religion, they have been guilty of outrages, that will for ever blot the history of their country, whose sanguine pages must reflect a crimson hue on the innocent cheeks of their descendants; but has not this happened to the people of most countries, and should a *general* crime be made a *particular* reproach? It is evident, that pugilism promotes courage, but I deny that it infuses a barbarous disposition. To lay aside the destructive weapons of war invented by art, and make use of those which nature has provided, can never be esteemed ferocious, and what is this but pugilism? An exercise of this kind inspires a manly emulation, and can only stimulate weak minds to disgraceful violence. It will not be thought paradoxical to say, that it introduces urbanity
amongst

amongst the lower orders of the community, for it makes them dread opponents in superior life, since the science is known to be universally taught. So far therefore from producing brutality, it will on the contrary smooth that roughness of manners, which has been a national reproach, and establish decorum. Has not a *Granby* used it with success; and reformed many uncivilized beings? Though the hero of a nation, and decked with the glorious laurels of war, he did not think them sullied by twining with them laurels won by pugilistic skill. I could quote many illustrious examples of the same nature, which prove, that while the science is studied by the higher, politeness will become more frequent among the lower ranks of society.

The objection that *Boxing extinguishes the spirit of industry*, remains to be answered. If Boxing be deemed prejudicial to industry,

try, so must every trial of manhood, so must every species of public amusement. The natives of every country, from the nature of the human mind, which demands intervals of relaxation from employment, will apply themselves to some exercise, martial or otherwise, to which their natural genius directs them, and of this we have innumerable instances in the history of the world; since therefore some time must be spent without labour, is it not better we should pass it in the acquisition of strength and grace, the necessary consequences of pugilism, than in the indulgence of the senses, which must enervate the body.

The advantages Englishmen possess over foreigners, from their knowledge of Boxing, are no inconsiderable motives to recommend it. Opposed as men to men, without weapons, and even with an inferiority of strength, we must be superior in
personal

personal contests, caused by accident or design. Science will prevail over numbers, and lives, it is not improbable, may be saved by a proper display of skill.

Travellers should be well versed in Boxing. It is a consolation to a man in a strange country, to be in a great measure assured, that he is equal to repel any attack made by another in a natural way, that is without dangerous instruments of art, and sometimes to entertain strong hopes of proving victorious over numbers. Nay in cases where the sword and pistol are used, or are intended to be used, a timely and well-directed blow will revenge a pugilist on his enemy, or defeat the villainous attempt. I am informed, that this argument in favour of the science is *new*, but, I trust, it will not therefore appear the *less conclusive*.

SECTION

SECTION IX.

Progress of Boxing—the encouragement given to it in Broughton's time—of its decline, revival, and present state.

PUGILISM is the lawful child of nature; but it is much indebted to art, whether we consider its progress in relation to skill or strength. When men first disputed and had recourse to the powers of the body to decide their differences, the hardest hitter, or the person most capable of bearing blows, proved superior. Chance also, as they fought without rule, frequently claimed the victory. The first improvement seems to have been a proper mode of *striking*, both as to the motion of the arms, and the parts aimed at. The next, a method of *guarding*. This, however, until our days, has never been sufficiently attended to. The pugilists of former times either
received

received the blows of their adversaries with courageous patience, or avoided them by shifting and retreating. However expert they may have been in planting blows with vigor, skill in the knowledge of defence appears to have been entirely new to them.

Broughton's time forms a memorable æra in the history of Boxing, and justly claims the honor of rendering it of more public concern than it was ever before. The zeal which some of the first men in the nation manifested in its service, and the great number of professors, who lived by the profits of the instructions they were solicited to give, prove that it was held in the highest estimation, and perhaps more universally admired than it is now. But improvement did not keep pace with encouragement. The science in its maturity did not afford more proofs of skill than were discovered in its infancy. Once therefore

fore at a stand it naturally fell into disgrace, because men, fancying themselves possessed of all that was attainable, thought it unnecessary any farther to cultivate a study, which could not requite them for their labor with any new acquisitions. The misconduct of its professors also gave a mortal wound to pugilism; intoxicated with popular applause, and confident of success in contests with the ignorant, they rashly took every occasion to quarrel, and thus formed a distinct and noxious class of beings in society. It therefore became the duty of every honest citizen to oppose men, the professed enemies of order, and they were accordingly stigmatized as unworthy of a situation in the commonwealth.

After this, Boxing for some time lost its attractions; no longer heard of, it seemed to have never existed. Yet the interval between its disgrace and revival was not long.

Many

Many champions with strong pretensions to public notice made their appearance. Their *practice* was indeed great, but *theory* was a word with which they were completely unacquainted. Resolution, strength, and activity were conspicuous; the art of defence was in a great degree new; some awkward guards, universally known, and therefore the more easily evaded, formed their whole system. The suiting the attitude to the form and powers of the body was a thing unheard of, and combatants of all strength and sizes generally had but *one* position. The state of Boxing at this period must be considered very much inferior to what it was in Broughton's time.

It would be ungenerous to raise the reputation of the *present*, by depressing that of *former* pugilists. They certainly had talents, and rescued Boxing from the rude state, in which nature only had placed it.

it. That they improved it, even their enemies must allow; but we have made still greater improvements, and so successfully has invention been in our days exerted, that little more can remain to be done for the science. Among the moderns are men possessed of every requisite to form a complete pugilist, and to this excellence they have gradually arisen by genius and intense application. No labor, no expence has been spared to attain perfection; every manœuvre, every *finesse*, which the mind could suggest, or the body execute, has been attempted, and even calumny must declare, that Boxing, conducted as it is at this moment on a civilized plan, has undeniable claims to public encouragement.

SECTION X.

*Three distinct periods to be considered—
Broughton, Slack, and Hunt described.*

IT is necessary, for the sake of order, to consider the different periods remarkable for the most eminent pugilists. The first comprehends Broughton and the principal combatants of his time; Corcoran and some others rank in the second; and the third includes the Boxers of the present day. No labour has been thought too great to obtain a faithful account of the pugilists of the first state; not content with authentic printed relations, I have had recourse to men, who lived in the most intimate habits of friendship with them, and were frequent witnesses of their contests. Few are mentioned, as one mode of fighting commonly prevailed; but such as most varied are carefully selected. The same plan is followed

followed in the description of those in the second state. With respect to the moderns, of whom we can speak with certainty, impartiality shall be my guide. Whatever attachments I may have to some of them, and I declare myself a foe to none, they are entirely forgot; while I write, the friend is lost in the historian, and truth shall only prevail. I have been often solicited to describe their occupations and private manners; but I have uniformly rejected such solicitations. Public action requires public notice; but no man should wantonly expose domestic concerns, and condemn the peculiarities of private conduct. The merits of the moderns, as *Boxers*, should be only considered, we should not view them in a *moral* light. Yet I shall be always ready to praise the deserving, while the vicious may rest secure from reproof.—Let their conscience be their monitor!

BROUGHTON

B R O U G H T O N

Stands the first of former pugilists. His height did not exceed five feet eleven inches, and his weight was sometimes above, sometimes under fourteen stone. He was remarkably well formed, but more calculated for strength than action; he had a good eye, and his arm was not, as has been ridiculously reported, longer, than the symmetry of the body demanded. The history of almost every pugilist sufficiently proves, that the mind, whatever opinion may be hazarded to the contrary, is very much interested in all contests of this nature. It is the origin of motion, and the body is its slave. *Broughton* was superior to all others in mental powers; his sagacity in discovering the weakness of an adversary, and ability in covering himself from the most dangerous blows, enabled him to overcome many, to whom he was inferior in bodily

E

force.

force. His favorite blows were straight, and one directly planted in the mark or pit of the stomach generally proved decisive. Few battles are now decided in this manner, as from the guard, and the forward bent of the body this dangerous place is nearly secure. He used round blows, particularly when he wished to strike his antagonist under the left ear. His attitude was somewhat like that of *Ryan*, in his first battle with *Johnson*; though the arms were not so much extended, they were, however, more so than those of his contemporaries. When a blow was directed at his body, he beat it down, when his head was aimed at, he caught his opponent's fist in his open hand. The *cross-buttock* was known long before his days; but he considerably improved and brought it into notice. Whatever state the science was in at that period, *Broughton*, it must be admitted, exceeded all other fighters in a knowledge of

of the principles, for his great talents soon led him to discover much of the theory, that was before unknown. Many were his superiors in strength and activity, none went beyond him in science and courage. He is deservedly placed at the head of the Boxers of his own time, and his amiableness of manners went hand in hand with his public estimation.

S L A C K

Measured five feet eight inches and a half; his weight between thirteen and fourteen stone, remarkably compact in his make, superior to most men in strength, and of wonderful bottom. Suited to the prevailing mode of fighting in his time, few were able to contend with him, when he was resolved on victory. He had but little method in his striking, and seldom fought a battle on a previously concerted plan. He exceeded all others in the force

of his blows, and a *Slack* was commonly used to signify a blow given with great strength. His attitude was upright, the legs very little separated, his right hand on or near the pit of the stomach, and his left placed at a small distance from his body before his mouth. In this position we cannot discern much art; and had he possessed bottom only in common with other pugilists, he never could have been victorious; but his clay seemed to be formed of a different mould, and resisted the strongest impressions. He resolutely disputed every inch of ground, and so much did he despise Shifting, that he has optionally received a knock-down blow sooner than relinquish his original situation. I have in another place taken notice of *Slack's* knowledge of the Chopper, which he frequently used with success in giving the return, bringing his fist to his breast, and projecting his elbow, he threw off a blow, and instantly describing
part

part of a circle, the center of which was the elbow, he unexpectedly struck his antagonist in the face with the back of his hand. This mode was completely his own, but has since been adopted by numbers. His victory over *Broughton* was the greatest honour he acquired, and we should be as blind as Fortune proved herself in the decision of that combat, were we on that account to yield him the palm. *Broughton's* science and repeated trials, in which he overcame the bravest and most powerful champions of his time, even those who had vanquished *Slack*, must give him the first situation, and it cannot be thought an act of injustice to the celebrated Boxer we are now describing, to place him after, but next to so great a man.

H U N T,

As a small man, possessed more reputation than any pugilist of the three different periods.

riods. Not exceeding nine stone, and only five feet four inches and a half in height, he has frequently fought with men twice his weight. When *Hunt* boxed, it was almost ever a trial of skill with strength. He had more difficulties to surmount than all others, for he was constantly over-matched. Of the few instances of Shifting that occurred in his time, he is the most singular; for he conquered the strongest men by his admirable art, and even stood up to some in a *manly* way. Though he might have been allowed to drop, when strength so much beyond his own opposed him, he seldom fell without a blow. He never confined himself to one attitude, for he found he could more effectually confuse his adversary by changing his guard, which he continually did. Some peculiarities which he used with success deserve our notice; he appeared patiently to wait the approach of a blow, which, if aimed at his body, he avoided

avoided by stepping aside, and then took an opportunity of *winding* his man, who was driven forward by his own force; if directed at his head, he stooped, and letting his opponent's arms pass over him, rushed within his guard, and generally planted a successful blow in the body. He was so famous for these practices, that his antagonists usually fought on the defensive, a great advantage to *Hunt*, who by this means became the assailant, and was not pressed by superior power.

SECTION XI.

Corcoran, Sellers, and Death described.

I Have in the last Section selected three Pugilists, remarkable in very different ways; the first famous for *science*, the second for *bottom*, and the third for *activity*. The history of *Taylor*, *Stevenson*, and many others, equally eminent in the same class, might have been given; but as accounts of this nature cannot admit of much variety, such as most materially differed from each other have been only noticed. We now come to the *second* or *middle* state of *Boxing*, and it has been thought proper to proceed on the same plan with respect to that.

C O R C O R A N

Stands first as a *fair* fighter. His blows were all straight, and planted with prodigious

gious force. He never shifted nor fell, unless accidentally, without being struck. His guard was injudicious, the arms not being sufficiently extended, and the body too upright. He exceeded most men in the power of using both hands, and though he has been blamed as a *slow* fighter, he had the merit of striking with certainty, for he always reserved himself to take advantage of his adversary's opens. Unfortunate in the event of his contests, he had not much to boast, even when victorious; for engaging with powerful pugilists, and meeting them in a manly manner, he seldom escaped being severely beaten.

S E L L E R S

Was stronger and had more art than *Corcoran*, yet did not hit with equal vigor. He was celebrated for *rallying*, or recovering himself, when closely pressed. This he effected

effected by a stratagem practised long before, but not frequently used till he revived it. When he found it impossible any longer to stand an assault, he fell on one of his knees, and thus evaded the disgrace of a knock-down blow. He was the more censurable for this practice, as he rarely encountered his superior in strength. He was very successful in striking his adversary as he himself dropped, and this has more than once terminated a battle in his favor. The following anecdote is related of *Sellers*, by some of the fighting men of his time. The neglect of his friends in not backing him against *Johnson*, when this celebrated pugilist first came into notice, so affected him with sorrow, that it caused his death. —For the truth of this I will not pledge myself.

DEATH.

D E A T H.

The real name of this Boxer is *Oliver*; but he is more generally known by that which I have prefixed to my account of him. He was well made, but light (I speak of him when in the full possession of his powers, for he is still living). His utmost weight was between eleven and twelve stone; but his activity amply compensated any deficiency in strength. He has fought more battles than any man in England, and won a great number of them. Death had at one time as much reputation in London as any pugilist could desire, and not one of his own weight durst meet him. But he imprudently engaged his superiors in force, and the utmost activity and skill united could scarcely bring him through. He is the first instance at the period we now notice, of a small Boxer boldly facing an enemy much larger than himself, and
though

though he has been often over-matched, he has often conquered. One of *Johnson's* first battles was with him; but *Death* unable to sustain so unequal a contest, was soon compelled to *give in*, for *Johnson* even at that time went far beyond him in displaying the requisites of a pugilist.

SECTION XII.

Johnson, Perrins, Ryan, Big Ben, Tring, Ward, George the Brewer, Jackson, Dunn, Wood, Nowlan, Mendoza, Humphreys, the elder and younger Towers, Hosper, Tyne, Watson, Lee, Martin, Doyle, Crabb, Jones, James, and Anderson, described.

JOHNSON.

AMONG the moderns this celebrated pugilist is in every respect the most distinguished. His strength, science and bottom give him a rank superior to all others; but his uncommon judgment is his greatest excellence. He has never yet engaged, without previously studying not only the powers and manner of fighting, but also the constitution and disposition of his adversary. This knowledge he always converts to his advantage; not by any unfair

fair manœuvres or abusive conduct, but by a wisdom that cannot be too much commended ; if his opponent be cool, he himself is cooler ; if warm, he makes him still more so by taking every justifiable measure to irritate him. It is worth the care of a sagacious *amateur*, to trace one by one the various battles *Johnson* has won. From the first to his memorable victory over *Perrins*, each furnishes us with new improvements, acquired not by scholastic attention or a servile imitation of others, but by his own originality of invention. A panegyric on the mental faculties of a Boxer may appear ridiculous to the inconsiderate, but the natural powers of *Johnson's* mind, uncultivated as they must be from the want of education, are equal to those of most men, and were they polished and enlarged by study, might be directed with success to the attainment of any difficulties. Unlike most fighters, who seldom

dom attend to rules for their guidance in a combat, until they find themselves on the stage, he regularly forms, long before, a system of conduct most adapted to himself, and contrary to his enemy; and to effect this, he calmly balances the respective abilities and tempers of each—a strong proof of judgment, and which his own reflection first suggested to him.

His height does not exceed five feet eight inches and a half, and his weight is about thirteen stone six pounds; he has little shew in his cloaths, but strips very large. He is round about the shoulders and breast, and his chief force is centered in the loins, which are remarkably strong. His position has been already described; it seems more calculated for *defence* than an *assault*; but when the body is strong enough for its support, it is equally capable of both. The face appears to be peculiarly his mark, and
his

his great object is the *blinding* his adversary, in which he frequently succeeds. He desists a long time in a battle from acting *offensively*, with this design, that he may be more intimately acquainted with his enemy's manner, and fatigue him. He avoids the fiercest attacks by the safety of his guard, which protects the body in an uncommon degree, while the arms thrown before cover the head. His motion is very judicious, he never retreats, but dances round his man with a rapidity, which generally confuses him. He gives the return quicker than any other pugilist, Mendoza excepted, and has confounded many by advancing his open hand immediately before the face of his antagonist, for this practice dazzles the sight, and gives an opportunity of planting a blow in the body. *Johnson's* grand principle in fighting, is never *idly to expose himself to danger, nor hazard any thing which can be obtained with certainty.* Acting always

ways upon this principle he has at the *conclusion* of several battles been in nearly as good condition as at the *beginning*; for though assured of conquest when first setting to, his prudence leads him to protract an engagement, which he perhaps could not speedily terminate, unless he endangered himself; he therefore mostly acts on the *defensive*, and never strikes, but when confident of success. Till his contest with *Ryan* he never met a man who had even a *chance* of beating him. The engagement with *Perrins* I do not mention here, for that shall be particularly noticed in another place. One pugilist may be superior in *strength*, another in *science*, and a third may possess more *bottom* than *Johnson*, but *in him* are more fully combined the various requisites that form a complete Boxer.

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PERRINS,

P E R R I N S,

Only victorious in the part of the country where he lived, for he was never matched in *London*, the residence of most fighting men, little can be said of this pugilist, previous to his contest with Johnson. He certainly won many battles with ease, and was possessed of so much confidence, that he thought himself superior to every man in England. This was evident from his advertisement in the public papers, which challenged any Boxer to meet him for five hundred guineas.

Perrins is nearly *gigantic* in height and weight, with force suited to his form, and admirable activity. An account of the battle between him and *Johnson* ought to be recorded, and will perhaps convey a more perfect knowledge of him than even a particular

ticular description. In this engagement strength was opposed to skill, and all the admirers of manhood and science were warmly interested in the decision. When stripped the difference in *nerve* between them was wonderful, and Johnson's friends, who, but a short time before, assured themselves of success, trembled for the event. We may safely declare, there was never so great a disparity in size between two pugilists matched against each other, and yet the smaller was a large man.

In setting to, great caution was shewn on both sides, and four minutes elapsed before a blow was even attempted—Johnson after baffling his adversary's attack, gave the *first* blow, and Perrins fell. The three next rounds terminated also in Johnson's favor, who confused his antagonist by dancing round him, and occasionally planting an unexpected blow. Perrins, irritated by this

F 2

conduct,

conduct, threw off the caution he shewed in the beginning, followed him with vast resolution, appeared to hold his manœuvres in contempt, and at last put in a successful blow, that turned the contest in his favor. One of Johnson's eyes was quite closed, and his ribs very much beaten. He therefore fought with more cunning, and, after skilfully parrying a violent attack of Perrins, suddenly darted forward, and struck him a severe blow in the face, that laid his nose entirely open. This was immediately followed by a second under the left eye, and Perrins was at length so perplexed by rapid movements and unexpected assaults, that he had evidently the worst of the battle in every future round, and the odds which were once with him turned at least ten to one on Johnson.

About the tenth round Johnson's strength seemed to decline, for he fell without a blow.

Perrins

Perrins therefore claimed the victory, but on appealing to the umpires, they decided it allowable to fall without a blow, as the articles were not specifically against that conduct. Perrins in his turn lost much of his strength, and attempted to imitate his antagonist's mode of fighting, with which he was completely unacquainted. He fought low and chopped at Johnson's face, but this effort weakened him still more, while it hurt his opponent but little, who appeared to gain new vigor. Perrins in aiming several blows, at last fell from weakness, when his adversary dropping at the same time struck him in the face, and afterwards hit him whenever he tried, till a dreadful blow in the centre of his face, which was before very much cut, compelled Perrins to give in. The battle lasted an hour and fourteen minutes; and fifty thousand pounds, it is thought, were won on the event of it. It is necessary to take notice of an opinion, which universally

fally prevails, that *Perrins* would be victorious were they to fight again; I, on the contrary, believe he would be more easily beaten. Johnson is now perfectly acquainted with his mode of fighting, an acquisition of the greatest importance to him, who exceeds all others in the artful advantages he takes of his adversary's failings.

R Y A N

Is very manly in his person, remarkable for courage, and is thought to be the hardest hitter in England. He is very scientific in his mode of fighting, and well acquainted with the principles of pugilism, to which he has of late indefatigably applied himself. He is, though left handed, very graceful in his attitudes. *Ryan* is famous for giving the *first* knock down blow, and could he preserve a coolness of temper, might be matched against any boxer in the kingdom. He has been conquered by *Johnson* only,
who

who beat him twice. In his last battle with Johnson, a round took place, which, for game, skill, and vigor in rallying, excels all others in the memory of modern pugilists; it lasted near three minutes, and *Johnson* fell.

B I G B E N.

This pugilist is distinguished by the name of *Big*, without any particular claim to it, for he is not remarkably large, but much about the size of Johnson. He strikes very straight with both hands, but has little art in his guard. He is wonderful game, and never permits his adversary to recover himself, but follows him with great boldness, till the decision of the round. His blows are uncommonly powerful, and without any particular direction. I am happy in the opportunity of doing justice to his private manners, for he has been unwarrantably

ably represented as an impudent, abusive fellow; but every one who knows him will allow, that, though not qualified to shine in a drawing-room, he is a well-behaved, obliging man. He has never lost a battle.

T R I N G

Is esteemed the best made man in England, and the talents of several artists have been employed in taking his likenesses. He has not been frequently matched, but his battle with *Big Ben* will be long remembered, for they both exhibited a *bottom*, that has been rarely seen in any contest. They displayed little art and fought with such spirit, that *Tring* was quite blinded, and his antagonist could see but very imperfectly. This however was a great advantage, and *Tring* was obliged to give in.

WARD.

W A R D.

This combatant has perhaps more claim than any other to public notice ; he weighs but twelve stone, yet has engaged the most powerful fighters with success, and could get back'd for sums to a great amount against any pugilist, if permitted to drop. His contest with *Johnson*, to whom he is inferior in strength and weight, will not be soon forgot : they fought upwards of two hours and an half. The skill shewn by *Ward* in this battle has never been equalled ; his activity in shifting was prodigious, and he gave strong proofs of judgment in his manœuvres. *Ward* is the quickest of all the boxers in hitting and changing ground ; his blows are very strong, and cut exceedingly. He does not adhere to rules laid down by others, but invents for himself ; and this he has done with such success that he has never been vanquished. *Ward* is able to
beat

beat any one of his own size, and if allowed to fall, would encounter the largest man in the world.

GEORGE THE BREWER

Is upwards of six feet high, he fights slowly, but strikes very hard. He knows little of the theory of boxing, and meets his opponent in a manly way, never shifting, but resolutely bearing the severest blows. He generally stands in a low attitude, somewhat like Johnson, who first gave him instructions and brought him into notice. He has made great improvements since his first battle, and the fighting-men hold him in high estimation. His victory over *Pickard*, the Birmingham man, gave a signal proof of his undaunted spirit; they stood up to each other, and disdained to practice the manœuvres of Boxing. Here was no falling back to avoid a blow, or running round the stage to wind one another, all was man-ly

ly and displayed uncommon courage. Two minutes often elapsed, before either of them fell, though, during that time, many hard blows were given on each side. When either did fall, it was by a real knock-down blow. After the most courageous contest ever seen, and which lasted thirty-four minutes, *George* conquered.

J A C K S O N

Is nearly six feet high and proportionably formed. He is celebrated for his activity, and surpasses most men in strength of arm. He imitates Johnson in parrying the blow directed at the head, and avoids those aimed at the body by jumping backward. In his engagement with *George the Brewer* the odds were six to four in his favour, till he unfortunately broke his leg, which put an end to the contest.

DUNN

D U N N

Is allowed to be very finely made, and his strength corresponds with his appearance. He is a very bold fighter, and never shifts. *Dunn* has on several occasions distinguished himself for *bottom*. He fought with *Ryan* half an hour, after three of his ribs were broken by a blow from his adversary.

W O O D

Is somewhat larger than *Ward*; he deserves much encomium for his manly conduct, and is considered a very fair fighter. He is greatly improved in his knowledge of the principles of Boxing, and ranks high as a Sparrer.

N O W L A N.

Much cannot be said of this pugilist, as he has given very few specimens of his abilities. He behaved himself well in his
contest

contest with *Wood*, and may attain great reputation, if he applies himself carefully to the scientific part of pugilism.

M E N D O Z A

Is universally known as a teacher of the science and a Boxer; but he is particularly celebrated for giving instructions. He has initiated more in the elements of Sparring, than any other professor, and has at this moment a great number of pupils. There is more neatness than strength in his manner, more shew than service. His plan consists in teaching his scholars to strike quick, and their intention is mostly directed to the face. As a Boxer he deservedly ranks high, he strikes oftener, and stops better than any man in England. He is deficient in the strength of his blows, and this proceeds from his attitude, which is too much in the defensive. *Mendoza* is weak in the loins, but

but very finely formed in the breast and arms. His courage is considerable. He has good wind, and he takes vast pains to prepare himself for action by proper *training*.

H U M P H R E Y S

Is inferior to none as a manly fighter. He is true game, and displays more grace in his various attitudes than any pugilist of the Modern School; he is well versed in the elements, and judiciously puts them into practice. He cannot use both hands with equal power, he mostly stops with the left, and strikes with the right hand. His blows are strong and carefully aimed at the most dangerous parts. The difference between him and Mendoza may be stated thus—Mendoza puts in more blows, and stops better; Humphreys hits more violently and is supposed to have better *bottom*.

The

The Elder and Younger TOWERS.

Neither of the brothers can be called scientific, they are, however, 'hard hitters, and possess much courage; the elder is, for a large man, wonderfully quick in striking; the younger was one of the first, with whom *Johnson* fought, and was severely beaten before he gave in.

H O O P E R

Weights little more than eleven stone, and is esteemed the best Boxer of his own size in the kingdom; he fights with prodigious spirit, and rallies remarkably well; his blows are straight, and planted with astonishing force. Hooper is famous for *driving*, or following his man till a knock down blow takes place. The amateurs have lately attempted to match him, but in vain; for no man of his own weight has sufficient resolution to stand up to him.

WATSON

W A T S O N

Has not much science. An excellent battle was fought between him and Hooper, it lasted a long time, and he gave striking proofs of bottom. Watson is a pupil of Ward's; but does not fight after his manner. He is very active, and a good shifter.

T Y N E

Is possessed of great strength and activity, fights cunningly and is a quick hitter. His attitude is pleasing, and seems to form a *medium* between that of *Humphreys* and *Mendoza*. He is allowed to be the best dropper in England, and often puts in a desperate blow as he falls. *Tyne* has fought many battles. That between him and *Earl* will be long remembered; the courage displayed on both sides has been seldom equalled, and the contest unfortunately terminated in the death of *Earl*. His conduct on so melancholy an occasion, merits the
highest

highest encomium; his sudden expressions of grief gave a strong proof of a feeling heart, and his long voluntary confinement shewed that his sorrow was sincere.

L E E,

Commonly known by the name of the *White Chapel Butcher*, fights with uncommon spirit, but has little knowledge of the principles of the science.

M A R T I N.

This pugilist was some years back much esteemed; but when he lost his battles with *Humphreys* and *Mendoza*, he lost his reputation. He is not a fair fighter, for he practices every manœuvre, and takes every mean advantage that is possible. He is so attached to shifting, that he cannot for a minute keep in one position. Martin strikes powerfully, and judiciously directs his blows at particular parts.

G

DOYLE

D O Y L E

Strikes with so little force, that he can scarcely injure an adversary; he may be called the Modern *Buckhorse*, for he patiently bears the severest blows. He is so fond of fighting, that he will quarrel with his superiors in strength and science, though he knows he must be defeated.

C R A B B

Is entitled to much praise, both for skill and bottom. Mendoza has given him instructions; but he has some bad customs which he does not endeavour to correct. His blows are not sufficiently straight, and he too frequently practises the *chopper*. This may be useful in an engagement with a person ignorant of the rules of Boxing, but is of no effect against a scientific man, who will easily parry it, and immediately have an advantage in giving the return. *Crabb* is
an

an honest fighter, and nothing but superior force can conquer him.

J O N E S

Is a slow but strong Boxer. He fights with spirit, but has not much method.

JAMES THE WATERMAN

Is a very intrepid pugilist. He weighs but ten stone, and has conquered men of superior strength. He imitates *Johnson* in his manner, and sparrs with great taste.

A N D E R S O N

Is admired as a neat fighter; he strikes and stops well. He is known to have won when he could with difficulty see his man, and yet gave in after four rounds with *Watson*.

To avoid an uninteresting repetition of language, many pugilists of the *middle* state,

though possessed of merit, have not been noticed; such were Darts and Ripshaw. Ripshaw has fought many hard battles; he planted his blows with great force, and has now the reputation of being a good second.

VI. THE FIGHT

At the first of the fight, the two men

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SECTION

SECTION XIII.

Parallel between Broughton and Johnson.

THE encouragement given to pugilism in the respective times of these combatants appears nearly equal. Regular places were *formerly* raised for the display of the science. The *Great Booth* in *Tottenham Court*, and the *New Amphitheatre* in *Oxford Road*, were constructed for the purpose. The latter was built by unsolicited subscription from some of the principal nobility. More money is, however *now* taken at public exhibitions of this nature. The receipts of the Amphitheatre, when Broughton and Slack fought, did not amount to three hundred pounds, whereas more than double the sum has been *lately* collected at different engagements.

Broughton

Broughton was the first Boxer of his time, Johnson maintains the same rank in ours. The antient exceeded the modern in weight and inches; but the latter has at least equal strength and certainly more activity. Broughton improved the science as he found it established, Johnson formed a system for himself, in opposition to well-known rules. The necessity of being acquainted with closing forms a great objection against the former pugilists; for as they permitted their antagonists to get within their guard, they could not have used their fists with dexterity equal to what we do, who so easily baffle every attempt of the kind. Broughton suffered the disgrace of a defeat, Johnson has never been vanquished, and yet he has risked more than his great predecessor, for he encountered Perrins, a more powerful man than Broughton ever met, as we learn from the accounts of his various battles. Johnson possesses so much

much fame that none dare attack him; Broughton in the height of his reputation has been challenged by several. The hero of the *old* school is said to have manifested admirable coolness of temper in the conduct of his battles, and in this the modern resembles him, for he surpasses all his contemporaries in so excellent a qualification. Broughton's mode of following his blows cannot be too much commended; but in *this* he was inferior to Johnson, who, like a wise general, improves every little advantage, till he gains a complete victory. The only point in which I can allow Broughton the superiority, is the resolution with which he attempted to stop blows; but this will only prove him more manly, not so judicious as Johnson; for is it not better to avoid than hazard the receiving a blow? Public integrity has been the characteristic of the one, and is equally that of the other. Their private lives may be assimilated in mildness
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of manners and honesty of heart. Broughton with little science was certainly more celebrated as a professor. An equality of courage will readily be allowed to both; but Johnson is so much superior in every other requisite, that the science of pugilism, practised as it is by him, seems a *new* invention since the days of Broughton.

F I N I S.